

8 July 2024

Funding Requirement CHF 2.9M

In support of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan





210

National Society branches



650

National Society staff



45.000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached





Disasters and crises



Health and wellbeing

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Recurring disasters
 - Health
- Social vulnerabilities
- Forecast-based action

Capacity development

- Climate change adaptation
- Youth and volunteer development

Key country data

Population 35.6M

INFORM severity rating Medium

INFORM Climate Risk Index Low

Human Development Index rank 101

Population below poverty level 14.1%

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Central Asia, Bishkek

Hazards



Heatwaves



Floods



Landslides



Drought



Earthquake

Funding requirements

Total 2.9M CHF

Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies



295,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

2.4M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

175,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

Participating National Societies

German Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAUZ002

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan** was established in 1925 and is the longest-standing humanitarian organization in the country. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1995, and has 650 staff, 45,000 volunteers and 210 branches across the country. As auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, it relies on the activities laid out in the President's Decree "On the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan" (1992), the State Law on the Protection of the Red Cross Red Crescent Emblem (2004), and the State Law on Humanitarian Activities.

The National Society aids the most vulnerable groups of the population, including lonely older people, people with disabilities or with chronic illnesses, multi-children families on low-incomes and orphans. It promotes healthy lifestyles, helps in the prevention of infectious diseases, provides first aid training, and participates in disaster response and disaster preparedness activities. It also helps unite separated families, disseminates knowledge on international humanitarian law,

develops youth activities, attracts volunteers, and ensures its own organizational development and fundraising activities. In 2023, the National Society reached 1,117,107 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 97,372 people by its disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

In July 2022, the National Society's General Assembly approved the National Society's Strategic Development Plan 2021–2025, with the following three strategic goals:

- Ensure effective disaster preparedness, response and recovery in communities
- Promote healthy lifestyles leading to safe and dignified life in communities
- Mobilize communities, ensuring inclusiveness and peace in communities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Uzbekistan, a double-landlocked country in Central Asia, shares borders with Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan. Its diverse terrain encompasses deserts, plains, and mountains, with the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers supporting agriculture despite a predominantly continental climate marked by hot summers and cold winters.

With a population nearing 36 million and over 50% residing in urban areas, Uzbekistan faces challenges associated with rapid urbanization, including infrastructure and planning. The country has a young demographic, with a median age of 27.8 years and a substantial portion below the age of 14. Ethnic Uzbeks constitute the majority, followed by

Russians, Tajiks, Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, and Tatars. Regional insecurity, particularly stemming from Afghanistan, remains a significant concern.

Uzbekistan boasts a diversified economy focusing on agriculture, industry, services, and natural resources, notably cotton production. Despite gradual market-oriented reforms since the early 2000s, the state plays a substantial role in economic activities relying on remittances from labour migrants mainly working in Russia. The Russia-Ukraine conflict's ramifications are felt in Uzbekistan, with anticipated decline in exports to Russia and remittances, alongside increased prices for imported cereals such as wheat due to disrupted shipments from Ukraine.

Persistent challenges in Uzbekistan include poverty, income inequality, limited access to quality healthcare and water, gender inequality, climate change impacts and food insecurity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Uzbekistan faces significant challenges related to desertification, worsened by <u>climate change</u>. The shrinking <u>Aral Sea</u>, a once-vast inland water body, is severely affected by diverted river water for agricultural purposes, primarily cotton production. This crisis has led to ecological devastation, loss of biodiversity, salinization of soils, and immense socioeconomic impacts.

Efforts to address the Aral Sea issue involve national and international interventions focused on water management improvements, sustainable agricultural practices, and partial sea restoration. Climate change exacerbates existing hazards, including landslides and flooding, while glacial melting poses threats like outburst floods to mountain communities.

<u>Projections</u> suggest rising temperatures will exceed 35°C by the end of the century, leading to more frequent and intense heatwaves. This poses health risks, especially to vulnerable groups such as the elderly and outdoor workers. Uzbekistan's current water deficit is 3 billion cubic meters and estimated to increase up to 7 billion cubic meters by 2030 and up to 15 billion cubic meters by 2050 given the decrease of water volumes in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya River basins.

Vulnerable groups including <u>women-headed</u> households and ethnic minorities face higher risks due to reduced incomes, making them less able to afford food and utilities. They resort to selling assets or taking loans to meet basic needs.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan is part of the <u>IFRC</u> <u>Global Climate Resilience Programme</u>, which aims to foster an

unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart, disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan will further develop forecast-based financing with a focus on heat waves for timely and effective implementation of early actions. It will also work to reinforce early warning systems at community level for a range of hazards and increase public awareness on climate risks for heat waves.

Planned activities in 2024

- Create animated videos and distribute them through local television and social media networks, focusing on heat protection measures
- Install information boards and carry out information campaigns with general advice and protection measures and distribute information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on measures for protection against heat waves
- Install air conditioners during hot weather, and distribute coal and electric heaters to the most vulnerable families to keep their homes adequately warm in extreme cold weather



- Distribute safe drinking water and "water cooling fans" to residents of the most vulnerable remote villages
- Distribute essential nonfood items and hygiene products
- Create centres for children and conduct seminars, training, competitions, and tests among both schoolchildren and teachers on first aid, emergency response and climate change
- Conduct workshops on first aid in heat wave emergencies (for example, to deal with sunstroke, heat stroke, fainting)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into its disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities. <u>IFRC's forecast-based financing</u> also aims to aid the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan in timely responses to abnormal heatwaves, cold spells, floods, and droughts.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is among the ten countries with highest earthquake risk globally. Major urban areas in the region are particularly vulnerable due to high population density and continuing concerns over the seismic safety of buildings and infrastructure. Tashkent ranks first among nine cities in Central Asia and the Caucasus in terms of earthquake hazard and the share of the population exposed to seismic risk. Over 20% of the population resides in buildings with high seismic vulnerability.

Although less than 15% of the country's territory is at very high seismic risk, the danger is concentrated in the <u>Tashkent and Bukhara</u> regions, home to more than half the country's population and accounting for 65 % of the country's GDP. Another major earthquake in Uzbekistan could have impacts on the scale of 30 % of GDP. The 1966 earthquake resulted in losses (adjusted for inflation) equivalent to over <u>US\$10 billion</u>.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen community-based emergency preparedness and response
- Enhance <u>community-based disaster risk reduction</u>, school safety and community preparedness for possible disasters
- Build awareness of young volunteers, adolescent girls and boys in disaster risk-prone areas and engage community in disaster preparedness and comprehensive school safety
- Enhance cash preparedness of the National Society by assisting most disaster-prone communities with <u>cash</u> and voucher assistance (CVA)

Conduct <u>preparedness</u> for effective response (PER) selfassessment, develop plan of action to identify institutional preparedness priorities and timelines, draft or revise multi-hazard contingency plans and develop SOPs for the headquarter's <u>Emergency Operations Centre</u>

Planned activities in 2024

- Replenish the central warehouse with emergency supplies of non-food items
- Provide all regional branches with computers and communication tools for monitoring in case of emergencies, and solar panels for uninterrupted power supply
- Set up "Young Rescuers" teams in schools
- Conduct seminars, training, competitions and tests among both schoolchildren and teachers on <u>first aid</u>, emergency response and climate change

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC's overarching regional objective for Central Asia is to continue its commitment to being the primary responder in a crisis or disaster, while improving response mechanisms. Uzbekistan is part of the regional programme for strengthening local and national capacities for emergency preparedness and response and building community resilience in high earthquake risk and natural hazards prone countries, supported by the <u>USAID Bureau for Humanitarian</u> Assistance (BHA).

Health and wellbeing

In <u>Uzbekistan</u>, most people rely on public health care providers. These health care providers are divided into national, regional and city levels. The government is the main employer of health care workers and the main purchaser and supplier of healthrelated goods and services. Uzbekistan ranks 114th in terms of maternal mortality, at 29 deaths per 100,000, and 93rd in terms of infant mortality.

Uzbekistan also has a low level of adult health. The country ranks 125th in terms of life expectancy, with an average life expectancy of 74.8 years. Non-communicable diseases are responsible for approximately 79 per cent of all deaths, and cardiovascular diseases are the main cause of premature mortality. Uzbekistan is also in the world's top 30 countries for the highest burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Deaths from diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, sanitation and inadequate personal hygiene are common, with around 41% of people living without access to safe drinking water. Inadequate access to water and sanitation alone is estimated to represent a cost to Uzbekistan of USD 635 million a year (or 1.3% of GDP). These challenges are again largely concentrated in rural areas (World Bank survey).

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan is actively involved in preparedness and response in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Emergency Situations, National Epidemic Committee, WHO and other partners. The National Society has prioritised risk communication and community engagement activities, including conducting awareness raising and training sessions and distributing information materials on epidemic prevention in local communities and locations.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan's objective is improved health and dignity of communities and vulnerable population through better access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services throughout life.

Planned activities in 2024

- Strengthen the technical base/capacity of nurses of the National Society's Mehr-Shavkat service and equip service with first aid kits
- Provide 3,500 vulnerable older persons and disabled people with special cell phones (with large screen/ buttons) and other items
- Produce and distribute flyers, manuals and video on first aid and information materials on healthy lifestyles
- Host seminars for employees and volunteers on first aid, home care, provision of psychosocial assistance, promotion of healthy lifestyles and hygiene for prevention of infectious diseases

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC's overarching regional objective for Central Asia is to strengthen health services, raise awareness of health issues, improve capacity and training for health professionals, provide direct health and WASH services, anticipate and alleviate the health needs of vulnerable populations, and promote stronger physical, mental and psychosocial health outcomes. Over the past ten years, the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan has financed its activities in the field of health and social services with its own resources.



Remittances from labour migrants significantly impact poverty reduction in Uzbekistan, with most migrants working in Russia and Kazakhstan. Approximately 2.5 million Uzbek citizens are labour migrants, mainly in Russia, and these remittances constitute a considerable part of income, especially for the poorest segments.

Uzbekistan historically had strict rules on internal migration, notably the "propiska" system, limiting movement within the country. Eliminating this system in 2017 was a significant reform step, enabling freer movement and addressing economic disparities between regions.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict led to a massive exodus of Russian citizens, with a significant number relocating to Central Asian countries, impacting various sectors like IT, finance, and creative industries. This migration has affected these countries' economies, including Uzbekistan, due to declining remittance transfers.

The crisis in Ukraine has led to a <u>reduction in remittance</u> transfers to all Central Asian states, including Uzbekistan, with significant projected decreases for each country in 2022. This decline in remittances will have widespread effects on the economies of these nations.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Due to the government's involvement in managing migration, the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan has found itself without a specific role or niche in this area. However, the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan supports people in need through its main programmes on disaster risk management and health and wellbeing. Hence support to vulnerable migrants and their families is embedded into the other sections of this plan.

Planned activities in 2024

Provide medical, psychosocial, legal, and educational aid, alongside labour law services to labour migrants, potential migrants from the non-working segment of the population, and graduates of educational institutions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan has an observation status in the Central Asian migration group.



Values, power and inclusion

Economic empowerment and protection of vulnerable households from transition shocks have been an integral part of Uzbekistan's reform strategy. In 2019, the government lifted one of its least popular policies: onerous domestic restrictions on obtaining residence permits (propiska), which have been used since Soviet times to severely restrict migration to Tashkent and other major cities. Tax reforms that no longer penalized firms for hiring more than 100 workers resulted in the registration of nearly a million new personal taxpayers in 2019, most likely informal workers, who could now get formal employment contracts and contribute to the pension system.

A World Bank study finds that about 13.5 per cent of Uzbekistan's population aged 3 and above might have some form of disability, and 3.5 per cent might have severe forms of disability. As of 2022, Uzbekistan had 845,300 people with disabilities, comprising 2.3 per cent of the total population. This includes 142,300 children, 475,800 men, and 369,500 women.

Since 2017, the tertiary enrolment rate in Uzbekistan, which is one of the lowest in the Europe and Central Asia region, has increased by 60%. Reforms guaranteeing equal opportunities and equal pay for women, reducing gender-based violence, and guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities have also helped create a more conducive institutional environment for greater economic and social inclusion. Since the Gender Development Index was first calculated in 2013, women have only ever scored higher than men in life expectancy.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan aims to support people with special needs through its main programmes on disaster risk management and health and wellbeing.

Planned activities in 2024

- Continue to leverage its diversity and promote the inclusion of all
- Implement a long-term strategy that is effective and principled, and respectful of gender equality and the presence of women leaders at all levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC's overarching regional objective for Central Asia is to support the National Societies with policies, procedures, training, and workshops tied to protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), and to improve the identification of and

responsiveness to the diversified needs of target communities. This will include establishing sub-regional coordination through PGI focal points in each of the Central Asia National Societies to discuss and share best practices and lessons learnt on related topics.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2012. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the action and accountability phase. PER is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and take necessary action to improve it.

The IFRC network is committed to supporting the National Society in its development according to its priorities.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society of Uzbekistan will improve its resource mobilization to expand its programmatic breadth and reach, alongside the strengthening of its capacities.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the alignment and coordination of technical capacity building in resource mobilization. Support may also be provided in reference to peer exchange among National Societies in the region, focusing on identified priorities.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The focus of the National Society is to identify funding for conducting OCAC and BOCA assessments and available IFRC tools to classify and set development priorities. These assessments can serve as a foundation for developing a single National Society development plan. Other objectives include:

Expanding and strengthening the volunteer base. In this connection, the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan received funds awarded by the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF) to implement a project between March and December 2023 on volunteering development with an overall budget of CHF 50,000

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide continuous technical support in all aspects of National Society development, tailored to the specific needs and context of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan, in line with IFRC's global policies, standards and tools. This support may include financial sustainability, volunteer management and logistics, as well as capacity building resources such as peer support, knowledge sharing and remote expert assistance. IFRC support will include:

- Strengthening the work of the National Society with the Union of Youth of Uzbekistan on joint comprehensive action plans
- Conducting active work in the educational institutions of the republic
- Conducting discussions, printing and disseminating outreach materials, organizing competitions, training, information campaigns, and educational and practical seminars for youth



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society plans to strengthen its humanitarian diplomacy through improved external communications, peer National Society support, knowledge sharing, promoting learning, conducting systems analysis and remote expert support.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society by facilitating visits of its leaders to humanitarian and development agencies, along with relevant ministries.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is committed to implement controls in aid of financial discipline and the targeted use of financial resources, as well as ensuring complete transparency over the expenditure of financial resources.

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan will focus on strengthening its monitoring, reporting and performance indicators. It will strive for transparent reporting to everyone affected by its work, including vulnerable people and communities, as well as partners.

The National Society will also work towards an improved digital environment including enhanced capacity among staff and volunteers.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the National Society in adopting and adapting cross-cutting policies (e.g. prevention of fraud and corruption, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse; and child protection) to the local context. The IFRC, with

network partners, will also provide support in developing and reviewing the National Society's strategies, policies, procedures and relevant mechanisms, analysis of needs and implementation of subsequent plans.

The IFRC and network partners will continue to provide technical support, emphasizing accountability and adaptability.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC, through its cluster office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, supports Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan to collaborate through formal and informal exchange platforms, exchange visits, and online and in-person meetings. By working together and with the IFRC, the National Societies in Central Asia stay up to date, relevant and influential in their approach to addressing humanitarian trends and challenges.

The IFRC also provides technical support to the National Society in health, WASH, risk communications and community engagement, accountability to affected populations, disaster preparedness and response, finance, planning monitoring evaluation and reporting. The IFRC supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

In addition to peer-to-peer collaboration between the Central Asian National Societies, the participating National Societies that support the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan are:

The **German Red Cross** has a regional office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and a country office in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. It has a history of long-term cooperation with National Societies in Central Asia and has implemented multiple regional and cross-border community-based disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and development projects, especially with Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan National Societies. Since 2013, the German Red Cross has been undertaking a cross-border social structures development



programme, engaging the three bordering countries of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It aims to support the National Societies in their structural and institutional development, paying particular attention to field branches and capacity building.

In the last five years, the German Red Cross has been assisting the National Societies with innovative programming such as forecast-based action for heat and cold waves. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the German Red Cross provided substantial assistance for the National Societies to conduct emergency response operations, including food and non-food items assistance to vulnerable people, and CVA to the most affected families and households. It encourages the National Societies to pay attention to the issues of gender equality and the protection of rights and lives of people with disabilities, especially women and girls, who are in the most vulnerable positions.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
German Red Cross	295,000						

Total Funding requirement

295,000

Movement coordination

The National Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

The ICRC supports the National Societies in Central Asia on restoring family links, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), mental health and psychosocial support, and emergency preparedness response programming. The ICRC, through its Tashkent delegation, helps national authorities in their work on IHL and other humanitarian norms dissemination and integration into national legislation, academic curricula and the practices of military and security forces.

Coordination with other actors

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan is the only non-governmental organization in the State System of Prevention and Action in Case of Emergencies, which leads and coordinates national and local authorities alongside all other organizations in disaster response within Uzbekistan.

It has an ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Health, providing social care to vulnerable households, including people living with disabilities, older people and families living below the poverty line. For COVID-19, the National Society coordinated with the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO) and the Risk Communication and Community Engagement sub-group to strengthen the response. It has supported WHO in translating COVID-19 information, education, training and other materials into the Uzbek and Karakalpak languages. The National Society has delivered several thousand units of information materials and conducted workshop sessions related to self-protection against COVID-19 and the proper use of personal protective equipment.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans
- Subscribe for updates
- <u>Donor response</u> on IFRC website
- Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) data
- Operational information: <u>IFRC GO platform</u>
- National Society data: <u>IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System</u>
- Evaluations database

This plan reflects the priorities of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC Strategy 2030, representing the collective ambitions of IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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